(c) The bank has informed to RBI that Shri N.R. Achan resigned as Chairman & CEO due to ill health.

(d) and (e) RBI has reported that it has not received any complaint against the overall functioning of the Catholic Syrian Bank. However, recently, RBI has received complaints pertaining to certain specific transactions/issues. These complaints are under examination of RBI.

Banks in rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu

4348. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Banks in the urban and rural areas of the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the present number of banks in rural areas is enough to take care of the interests of the rural areas in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether more Public Sector Banks are proposed to be opened in the rural areas of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of branches of Public Sector Banks functioning in the urban and rural areas in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.12.2006 were 786 and 1201, respectively.

(b) and (c) A bank branch of commercial banks was functioning in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.12.2006 for an average population of 17,796 against the national average of 15,902 persons per branch.

(d) and (e) In terms of revised Branch Authorisation Policy of RBI, banks are required to submit on an annual basis detailed proposals for opening of new branches at specific centres. Banks are encouraged to open branches in underbanked districts and rural centres. RBI while considering proposals for opening branches gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons particularly in under banked areas.